em **timor-leste**

a paz é possível

TL 2264

Dr. Michael Knoch
c/o Igreja Evangelica
Presbiteriana de
Portugal
Av. do Brasil 92,2-Dº
1700 Lisboa
PORTUGAL

26th of August, 1985

The Prime-Minister of
New Zealand
Mr. David Lange

WELLINGTON
New Zealand

Your honoured Excellency

In March 1985, the Presbitarian Church of Portugal, represented by the directory of our church, expressed her strongest support to yours and your governments political position of not permitting maritim vessels equiped with nuclear weapons to use the port-facilities of New Zealand. Our statement with special reference to war-ships of the United States of America, has been iniciated by an appeal of the New Zealand Methodist Church.

But our principle believe in the values of live brings us also to the stage to express our deepest concerns about the situation of the people and their human rights in a country next to yours, we refer us to the situation in East-Timor.

As we got to know by refugees out of Timor, who recently arrived in Portugal and also by oficial and others informatin sources, we know about severe violations of human rights in East-Timor caused by Indonesian security forces, violations against the civil population in all as well as against individuals.

Amnesty International has been working out a detailed documentation of the violations in East Timor, taken place from 1975 up to 1984. We also know about extensive lists of "disapeared persons".

At the 41st session uf the UN-Commission on the subject of Human Rights, taken place at the 20th of February 1985 in Genevea, the governmont of Indonesea, represented by its Ambassador, had quoted in her statement an interview with Your Excellency, intending to support her own position in that question. As part out of that interview, transmitted by broadcasting at the 13th of December 1984, it had been cited in reference to Your position that "... life seemed to be functioning as well as could be expected ..." (in East-Timor).

Within the context of justifying the politic of Indonesea towards East-Timor we don't understand this quotation, because the intention of genocide in that troubled land seems to be for us very clear. The gift of life is the most gracious and most beautiful gift we received by God and it must be valued for all human beeings and all people in our world.

Your honoured Excellency and Prime-Minister permit us, as Christians to ask for a clarrification of Yours position in the serious question, how the Human Rights are treated and how we as Christians and as politicians schould react on the violations of the Human Rights we know about.

At the occasion of the visit of the Debuty Minister of Foreign Affairs of New Zealand, Mr. Frank O'Flynn in Lisbon, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Portugal, Mr. Jaime Gama, expressed the importance and his readiness to discuss all aspects concerned with the conflict on East-Timor and we hopefully whish on our part that a dialogue, based on common human and christian believes will bring us to a better understanding of the real situation of the people in East-Timor.

As part of such a dialogue we like to bring to your attention a report on the situation of the people in East-Timor, which has been worked out by the Apostolic Administrator and the Council of Priests of the Diocese of Dili and which we allow us to forward to you.

Thanking you for your interest and attention

I remain sincerely